

APPENDIX H

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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Active Fault: a fault that has moved recently and which is likely to move again. For planning purposes, an “active fault” is usually defined as one that shows movement within the last 11,000 years and can be expected to move within the next 100 years.

Adaptive Use: use of a historic structure for a purpose other than for which it was originally intended.

Aesthetics: refer to the visual, audible, and other sensory factors within the park setting and its surrounding landscapes that, taken together, establish character or sense of place.

Alluvium: a general term for all detrital deposits resulting from the operations of modern rivers, thus including the sediments laid down in riverbeds, flood plains, lakes, fans at foot of mountain slopes and estuaries.

Ambient Air Quality: the atmospheric concentration (amount in specified volume of air) of a specific compound as actually experienced at a particular geographic location that may be some distance from the source of the relevant pollutant emissions.

Ambient Noise Level: the composite of noise from all sources near and far.

Aquifer: the underground layer of water-bearing rock, sand, or gravel through which water can seep or be held in natural storage. Such water holding rock layers hold sufficient water to be used as a water supply.

Archaeological: pertaining to the material remains of past human life, culture, or activities.

Bedrock: the solid rock underlying unconsolidated surface materials.

Best Available Control Technology (BACT): the most stringent emission limit or control technique that has been achieved in practice that is applicable to a particular emission source.

Best Management Practices (BMP): the most current methods, treatments, or actions in regards to environmental mitigation responses.

Bikeways: bicycle travel way, encompasses bicycle lanes, bicycle paths, and bicycle routes.

Biodiversity: biological diversity in an environment as indicated by numbers of different species of plants and animals, as well as the relative abundance of all the species within a given area.

Buffer: land that protects natural and/or cultural values of a resource or park from adverse effects arising outside the buffer.

California Coastal Commission: established by the 1972 Coastal Act to review and approve projects and actions within a defined zone along the California coastline for compliance with the Coastal Act.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): a state law (PRC §21000 et al.) requiring state and local agencies to take actions on projects with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity may result in a significant adverse effect on the environment, an EIR must be prepared. General Plans require a “program EIR” and park development projects require a project environmental document.

California State Parks and Recreation Commission: established in 1927 to advise the Director of Parks and Recreation on the recreational needs of the people of California. In 1928 it gathered support for the first state park bond issue. The Commission schedules public hearings to consider classification or reclassification and the approval of State Parks’ general plan (and amendments) for each park unit.

Classification: official designation of units of the State Park System. Classification are established by the State Parks and Recreation Commission at the recommendation of Department staff and are based on the sensitivity and kind of unit’s most important resources and what types of use the unit will receive from the public.

Clean Water Act (CWA): enacted in 1972 to create a basic framework for current programs to control water pollution; provide statutory authority for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Concession: a contract with persons, corporations, partnerships, or associations for the provision of products, facilities, programs, and management and visitor services that will provide for the enhancement of park visitor use, enjoyment, safety, and convenience. Concession developments, programs, and services must be compatible with a park unit’s classification and general plan provisions.

Conservation Easement: acquisition of rights and interests to a property to protect identified conservation or resource values using a reserved interest deed. Easements may apply to entire parcels of land or to specific parts of the property. Most are permanent, although term easements pose restrictions for a limited number of years. Land protected by a conservation easement remains on the tax rolls and is privately owned and managed; landowners who donate conservation easements are generally entitled to tax benefits.

Constraints: (1) the state of being restricted or confined within prescribed bounds (2) one that restricts, limits, or regulates; a check.

County Route: a segment of roadway that has been officially designated by the Director of California Department of Transportation as a scenic corridor.

Cultural Heritage Point of Interest: human activity site, interpretive exhibit. Utilizes both preservation and interpretation.

Cultural Landscape: a geographic area (including both the cultural and natural resources) associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting cultural or aesthetic values. This type is a landscape that evolved through use by people whose activities or occupancy shaped it.

Cultural Preserve: the subclassification protects areas of outstanding historic interest in state parks, including such features as sites, buildings, or zones where significant events in the flow of history in California occurred. They need to be large enough to protect resources from potential damage and to permit effective management and interpretation and must also have complete integrity of the resources; no conflicting improvements, such as roads, are permitted. Natural resources values are secondary to historical values in cultural preserves.

Cultural Resource: a resource that exists because of human activities. Cultural resources can be prehistoric (dating from before European settlement) or historic (post-European contact).

Culvert: a drain, ditch, or conduit not incorporated in a closed system that carries drainage water under driveway, roadway, railroad, pedestrian walk or publicway. Culverts are often built to channelize streams and as part of flood control systems.

Cumulative Impact: as defined by the state CEQA Guidelines (§15355) two or more individual effects which, when considered together are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.

Degradation: the reduction of environmental quality in an area through a lessening of diversity, the creation of growth anomalies, or the supplanting of native species by nonnative plant and animal species.

Demographic: having to do with a particular characteristic of a segment of the public at large; may be connected to the group's age, the region where the group resides, a particular recreational interest, economic status, etc.

Ecology: the study of the interrelationship of living things to one another and their environment.

Ecosystem: a community consisting of all biological organisms (plant, animals, insects, etc.) in a given area interacting with the physical environment (soil, water, air) to function together as a unit of nature.

Ecotone: a transition area between two adjacent ecological communities, usually exhibiting competition between organisms common to both; often a rich biological area.

Effect/Impact: an environmental change; as defined by State CEQA Guidelines §15358:
(1) Direct or primary effects are caused by the project and occur at the same time and place
(2) Indirect or secondary effects that are caused by the project and are late in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect or secondary effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air and water quality and other natural systems including ecosystems.

Endangered Species: a species of animal or plant is considered to be endangered when its prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game make this designation.

Endemic: indigenous to, and restricted to, a particular area.

Environment: as defined in State CEQA Guidelines §15360, “the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, mineral, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historical and aesthetic significance.”

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): a report required by CEQA that assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area and determines what effects of impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action. If a proposed activity may result in a significant adverse effect on the environment, an EIR must be prepared. General plans require the preparation of a “program” EIR appropriate to its level of specificity.

Environmentally Sensitive: an area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their role in an ecosystem. Such areas can be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments.

Ethnographic: a multi-format group of materials gathered and organized by an anthropologist, folklorist, or other cultural researcher to document human life and traditions.

Exotic Species: a species occurring in an area outside of its historically known natural range that has been intentionally introduced to or have inadvertently infiltrated into the system. Also known as non-native, ornamental, or introduced species. Exotic animals prey upon native species and compete with them for food and habitat. Exotic plant species can convert native ecosystems into a non-native dominated system that provides little benefit to other species in the ecosystem.

Fauna: animal life, particularly animals that are characteristic of a region, period, or special environment.

Floodplain: a lowland or relatively flat area adjoining inland or coastal waters that is subject to a one or greater chance of flooding in any given year (i.e., 100-year flood).

Floodway: the channel of a natural stream or river and portions of the flood plain adjoining the channel, which are reasonably required to carry and discharge the floodwater or flood flow of any natural stream or river.

Flora: plant or bacterial life, particularly plants and bacteria that are characteristic of a region, period, or special environment.

Forbes: any herbaceous (non-woody) plant having broad leaves, and therefore excluding grasses and grass-like plants.

General Plan (GP): a general plan is a legal planning document that provides guidelines for the development, management, and operation of a unit of the state park system. A general plan evaluates and defines land uses, resource management, facilities, interpretation, concessions, and operations of a park unit as well as addressing environmental impacts in a programmatic manner. A park unit must have an approved general plan prior to implementing any major development project.

Geology: the scientific study of the origin, history, and structure of the earth.

Grade: the degree of rise or descent of a sloping surface.

Habitat: the physical location or type of environment, in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs. It involves an environment of a particular kind, defined by characteristics such as climate, terrain, elevation, soil type, and vegetation. Habitat typically includes shelter and/or sustenance.

Hazardous Material: any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment. Lead-based paint is an example of a hazardous material.

Historic Character: the sum of all visual aspects, features, materials, and species associated with a structure or cultural landscape's history, i.e., the original configuration together with losses and later changes. These qualities are often referred to as character defining.

Hydrology: pertaining to the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying geology, and in the air.

Impervious surface: any material, which reduces or prevents absorption of water into land.

Infrastructure: public services and facilities, such as sewage-disposal systems, water supply systems, other utility systems, road and site access systems.

Initial Study: as defined by State CEQA Guidelines §15365, an analysis of a project's potential environmental effects and their relative significance. An initial study is preliminary to deciding whether to prepare a negative declaration or an EIR.

Interpretation: In this planning document, it refers to a communication process, designed to reveal meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural heritage, through involvement with objects, artifacts, landscapes, sties, and oral histories.

Kilowatt: A measure of the rate of electrical flow equal to one thousand watts.

Kilowatt – Hour: A measure of quality of electrical consumption equal to the power of one kilowatt acting for one hour.

Landform: Configuration of land surface (topography).

Mean Sea Level: The average altitude of sea surface for all tidal stages.

Mitigation Measure: A measure proposed that would eliminate, avoid, rectify, compensate for, or reduce significant environmental effects (see State CEQA Guidelines §15370).

Morphology: Form and structure of a plant that is typical.

Mycology: The study of fungi.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): As authorized by the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): The official federal list of buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts worthy of historic preservation. The register recognizes resources of local, state, and national significance. The register lists only those properties that have retained enough physical integrity to accurately convey their appearance during their period of significance. Crystal Cove was listed on the NRHP as a Historic District on June 15, 1976.

Native species: A plant or animal that is historically indigenous to a specific site area.

Natural Preserve: A subclassification within a unit of the State Park System that requires parks and Recreation Commission approval. Its main purpose is to maintain such features as rare and endangered plants and animals and their supporting ecosystems in perpetuity.

Negative Declaration: When a project is not exempt from CEQA and will not have a significant effect upon the environment a negative declaration must be written (see State CEQA Guidelines §15371).

Office of Historic Preservation (OHP): The governmental agency primarily responsible for the statewide administration of the historic preservation program in California. Its responsibilities include identifying, evaluating, and registering historic properties and ensuring compliance with federal and state regulatory obligations.

Open Space: An area with few or no paved surfaces or buildings, which may be primarily in its natural state or improved for use as a park.

Project: As defined by the State CEQA Guidelines §15378, a project can be one of the following a) activities undertaken by any public agency; b) activities undertaken by a person which are supported in whole or in part through contracts, grants, subsidies, loans or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies; c) activities involving the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.

Public Resources Code (PRC): In addition to the State Constitution and Statutes, California Law consists of 29 codes covering various subject areas. The PRC addresses natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreation resources of the State.

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB): There are nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards. The mission of the RWQCBs is to develop and enforce water quality objectives and implementation plans which will best protect the beneficial uses of the State's waters, recognizing local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology.

Riparian: Riparian habitat represents the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams and are delineated by the existence of plant species normally found near fresh water.

Riprap: A loose assemblage of broken rock or concrete often used to prevent erosion.

Runoff: That portion of rainfall or surplus water that does not percolate into the ground and flows overland and is discharged into surface drainages or bodies of water.

Septic System: An on-site sewage treatment system that includes a settling tank through which liquid sewage flows and in which solid sewage settles and is decomposed by bacteria

in the absences of oxygen. Septic systems are often used where a municipal sewer system is not available.

Shoulder Season: The months of the year immediately before and after the park's busy recreation season. This term generally refers to April and October, but could also shade into late March and early November, depending upon activities under discussion.

Significant Effect on the Environment: As defined by State CEQA Guidelines §15382, substantial or potentially substantial, adverse change on any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to physical change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant.

Siltation: The process of silt deposition. Silt is a loose sedimentary material composed of finely divided particles of soil or rock, often carried in cloudy suspension in water.

Solid Waste: Term used to describe the mixture of items, discarded by agricultural, residential and non-residential activities.

Special-Status Species: Plant or animal species that are typically listed (State and Federal) as endangered, rare and threatened, plus those species considered by the scientific community to be deserving of such listing.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): The chief administrative officer for the OHP and is also the executive secretary of the State Historic Resources Commission.

Subclassification: A separate classification for a portion or unit of the State Park System. The State Parks and Recreation Commission establish these at the recommendation of Department staff. Cultural preserves, and Wilderness are subclassifications.

Subsidence: The gradual sinking of land as a result of natural or man-made causes.

Threatened Species: An animal or plant species that is considered likely to become endangered throughout a significant portion of its range within the foreseeable future because its prospects for survival and reproduction are in jeopardy from one or more causes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game make this designation.

Topography: Graphic representation of the surface features of a place or region on a map, indicating their relative positions and elevations.

Trailhead: The beginning of a trail, usually marked by information signs.

Viewshed: The area that can be seen from a specified location.

Watershed: The total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to the flow of the watercourse; entire region drained by a watercourse.

Wetland: Includes the environment of subtidal, mudflats, tidal salt marsh, periodically inundated or brackish marsh, diked marshland, associated upland, and freshwater marsh.

Wilderness: Within state parks, this is a subclassification requiring approval by the State Parks and Recreation Commission. It provides protection for plants and animals and their supporting ecosystems while also encouraging recreational use. Its provision includes no permanent facilities other than “semi-improved campgrounds” and possible retention of structures existing when the land was designated. No mechanical equipment may be used in a wilderness (including bicycles), and there is a 2000-foot no-fly zone above.